

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02195 251845Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2179

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 2195

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CU GY AO

SUBJ: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: GUYANA TRANSIT
FACILITIES

REF: A. STATE 303314; B. STATE 302692; C. GEORGETOWN 2194

1. I WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS UNTIL NOON DECEMBER 25. I PUT MATTER TO HIM ALONG LINES PARA 4 REFTEL C. HIS FIRST REACTION WAS THAT PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM YOU WOULD BE HELPFUL ON TWO COUNTS: A. IT WOULD PUT TO REST DOUBTS ABOUT USG POSITION (WILLS SAID SOME CABINET MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO DOWNGRADE INTENSITY OF US OPPOSITION TO CUBAN/SOVIET INTERVENTION SINCE OUR DEMARCHES SO FAR HAVE BEEN MADE ORALLY) AND B. IT WOULD PUT ADDITIONAL WEIGHT BEHIND WILLS' ADVOCACY OF SUPPORTING OAU.

2. I ASKED WILLS IF HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A RISK THAT A MESSAGE OF THIS TYPE MIGHT BE RESENTED OR TAKEN AMISS AND CONSEQUENTLY PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WILLS SAID MESSAGE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE SEEN AS INTERVENTION OR UNDUE PRESSURE (OR BOTH) BY SOME CABINET RADICALS AND POSSIBLY EVEN BY ONE OR TWO MEDERATES. BUT AFTER FURTHER PONDERING THIS RISK, WILLS CAME DOWN COMCLUSIVELY IN FAVOR OF THE IDEA OF A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PM BURNHAM.

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3. WILLS' ONLY CAVEAT WAS THAT MESSAGE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO MINIMIZE RISK OF MISINTERPRETATION. I TOLD HIM I BELIEVED THE SECRETARY WOULD COUCH HIS MESSAGE IN TERMS OF AN APPEAL TO BURNHAM TO MAINTAIN HIS SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ANGOLAN CONFLICT BY DENYING COOPERATION WITH MASSIVE CUBAN/SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION. WILLS SAW NO RPT NO PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH.

4. WILLS KEPT ME FOR A FULL HOUR IN FURTHER CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO OBTAIN CABINET SUPPORT FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS CONSISTENT PURSUIT OF REAL GUYANESE INTERESTS IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. INTERALIA, HE CALLED ATTENTION TO HIS HARD HITTING STATEMENT IN TODAY'S PRESS ATTACKING EXCLUSIVELY SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. WILLS SAID HE HAD TO PUT THIS OUT IN ORDER TO QUIET THE RADICALS IN CABINET AND PNC PARTY WHO WERE CRITICIZING WILLS' ANGOLAN POLICY AS BEING SOFT ON APARTHEID. HE ALSO SAID HE AND BURNHAM HAVE NOW RECEIVED KAUNDA'S PRIVATE ASSESSMENT (GEORGETOWN 2193, PARA 7), WHICH IS PESSIMISTIC ON FNLA/UNITA PROSPECTS. KAUNDA ALLEGEDLY STATED HE IS INCLINING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF MPLA ON GROUNDS HE IS ENCOUNTERING STIFF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT AND IN FINAL ANALYSIS BELIEVES MPLA MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESIST TOTAL SOVIET DOMINATION JUST AS OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE DONE.

5. WE LEFT MATTER OF MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS: WILLS WILL BE SEEING BURNHAM TONIGHT (LATTER IS MAKING TOUR OF GNS CAMPS ALL DAY 25TH). HE WILL TELL BURNHAM I CAME TO SEE HIM AND THAT THERE IS A PROBABILITY I WILL WANT TO SEE BURNHAM ON 26TH TO DELIVER A HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGE. I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH WILLS AS SOON AS I HAVE TEXT AND GREEN LIGHT TO DELIVER (PROBABLY EVENING 25TH OR EARLY MORNING 26TH).

6. I HAVE AGAIN GONE OVER TEXT OF MESSAGE IN REFTEL B. I BELIEVE BOTH SUBSTANCE AND TONE ARE APPROPRIATE TO OUR OBJECTIVE AND I CAN FIND NOTHING

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IN IT WHICH WOULD BE LIKELY TO CAUSE BURNHAM TO TAKE OFFENSE.

7. I WILL PROCEED ON RECEIPT OF YOUR CONFIRMATION, AND WILL INCLUDE USLO PEKING IN REPORT OF DELIVERY.
KREBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GEORGE02195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850104-1545
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751211/aaaaajbu.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 303314, 75 STATE 302692, 75 GEORGETOWN 2194
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: GUYANA TRANSIT FACILITIES
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CU, GY, AO, (WILLS, FRED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006